

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to denounce and oppose hate groups, including white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups, and their actions.

WHEREAS, tragic events have proven that hate groups, including white nationalists and neo-Nazis, remain very real threats to social and racial progress; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Poverty Law Center defines "hate groups" as organizations that – based on official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities – have beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of our nation's history, white nationalism has promoted intimidation and violent repression of individuals solely on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, today, white nationalism has attempted to reinvent itself, self-identifying as the "Alt-Right," yet their present-day rhetoric and terrorism conjure painful memories of our nation's past; and

WHEREAS, while free speech and assembly are bedrock values for Americans, white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups promote agendas that are in irreconcilable conflict with our nation's foundational principles of liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, white nationalism and neo-Nazism are continuing to grow as menaces to societal order that seek to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations, divide the nation, and foment hatred, classism, anti-Semitism, religious intolerance, and ethnic eradication; and

WHEREAS, the white nationalist and neo-Nazi message of racial and social intolerance has led to senseless acts of violence that continue to terrorize members of ethnic, racial, and religious minority communities; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Poverty Law Center has stated that there were thirty-seven active hate groups in Tennessee in 2018, ranking Tennessee as having the second most hate groups in the nation per capita; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we strongly denounce and oppose the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge law enforcement to recognize these hate groups, such as white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups, that do harm, as terrorist organizations and to pursue the criminal elements of these domestic terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same fervor used to protect the United States from other manifestations of terrorism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our State, the great State of Tennessee, and its people will not tolerate discrimination or hate in any form or manifestation and that we stand united with resolve to promote and ensure equality for all Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the President of the United States, all members of the United States Senate, all members of the United States House of Representatives, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, and all members of the Tennessee General Assembly.